

62-21775-3089

EC-14

June 27, 1972

BY LIAISON

EX 101

Honorable Robert McClory  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman McClory:

I feel complimented by your letter of June 19th in which you requested my views regarding H.R. 15430 to amend Federal law to provide for the systematic registration of handguns. I have some firm views on the matter of gun control which I believe is basically a problem to be handled on the state or local level. There are, however, areas in which the Federal Government can assist, such as in matters involving interstate commerce in firearms, Federal crimes committed with guns, and other crimes which Congress has specified that the FBI should investigate.

While it is not within the province of the FBI to prepare or recommend any specific gun control legislation, I certainly favor effective regulatory measures directed toward keeping firearms, particularly handguns, out of improper and irresponsible hands. Such measures perhaps can best be initiated and enforced by state and local governments. I believe it is imperative that gun control be approached calmly and deliberately, keeping in mind the interest in the ownership of firearms by those who pose no criminal threat to society.

It is my understanding that a representative of the Department of Justice will testify this week before the House Judiciary Subcommittee Number 5 concerning gun control legislation. He will speak for the entire Department of Justice, including the FBI.

With kind regards and warm respect,

Sincerely yours,

L. Patrick Gray, III  
Acting Director

1 - Mr. Dalbey (Detached)  
1 - Administrative Review Unit - Enclosures (2) (detached)  
GEM:nb (6)  
SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE

Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Bates \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Campbell \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Cleveland \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Dalbey \_\_\_\_\_  
Marshall \_\_\_\_\_  
Miller, E.S. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ponder \_\_\_\_\_  
Soyars \_\_\_\_\_  
Walters \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Kinley \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Armstrong \_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Herwig \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Neenan \_\_\_\_\_

Honorable Robert McClory

NOTE: Reply coordinated with the Office of Legal Counsel and the Administrative Review Unit. Inspector David W. Bowers has determined from Mr. Hugh M. Durham, Chief, Legislative and Legal Section, Office of the Deputy Attorney General, that the Administration will continue to oppose Federal licensing and Federal gun registration. The Administration desires to prolong the status quo as it relates to the control of firearms. Congressman McClory indicates a hearing has been set for June 28th; however, the Department advised this morning that a representative of the Department will testify on June 29th before the House Judiciary Subcommittee Number 5. The Department representative will testify briefly on enforcement in tandem with a representative of the Treasury Department who will be the principal spokesman for the Administration. Mr. Durham indicated that the Administration is not in favor of Federal control, but rather desires state and local controls. Above reply is in keeping with Mr. Gray's position as expressed in the draft for an article to appear in the July, 1972, issue of "Nation's Business" and a forthcoming article to appear in "U. S. News and World Report." Bureau has good relations with Congressman McClory.

ROBERT McCLORY  
12TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
ANTITRUST  
SUBMERGED LANDS

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DISTRICT OFFICE:  
POST OFFICE BUILDING  
326 NORTH GENESEE STREET  
WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS 60085  
(312) 336-4554

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 19, 1972

Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Campbell	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Miller, ES	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Dalbey	_____
Mr. Cleveland	_____
Mr. Ponder	_____
Mr. Bates	_____
Mr. Waikart	_____
Mr. Walters	_____
Mr. Soyars	_____
Tele. Room	_____

L. Patrick Gray, III, Esq.  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Director Gray:

I would certainly appreciate your comments on the enclosed measure, H.R. 15430, relating to Federal registration of handguns. This is similar to an amendment which I offered in 1968, and which had the support of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at that time. I am not so optimistic as to believe that the Congress will provide similar Federal controls with regard to all firearms. However, I believe that strong support for handgun legislation might be possible at this session. X

Your comments on this legislation would be greatly appreciated and most helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Robert McClory  
Member of Congress

EX 101-142

RMCC:fk

Enc.

(A hearing is set before the House Judiciary Subcommittee #5  
next Wednesday June 28th.)

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

Let to Mr. McClory  
6/23/72  
#35

EXP. PROC.

JUN 21 1972

A hearing is set before the 3089  
House Judiciary Subcommittee #5  
next Wednesday June 28th  
REC-14  
21775  
16 JUN 29 1972

211  
WNT



62-21775-3089  
ENCLOSURE

CORRESPONDENCE

92<sup>d</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>d</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 15430

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 1972

Mr. McCLORY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend chapter 44 of title 18 of the United States Code to provide for the systematic registration of handguns.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That chapter 44 of title 18 of the United States Code is  
4 amended by redesignating sections 926 through 928 as 934  
5 through 936, respectively, and by inserting immediately  
6 after section 925 the following new sections:

7 "§ 926. Registration

8 "(a) Except as provided in section 933 (e) of this  
9 title, it is unlawful for a person knowingly to possess in  
10 interstate commerce or affecting such commerce a handgun

1 not registered in accordance with the provisions of this sec-  
2 tion. This subsection shall not apply with respect to—

3 “(1) a handgun, previously unregistered, if such  
4 handgun is held by a licensed dealer for purposes of  
5 sale if records of such handguns are kept as may be  
6 required by the Secretary;

7 “(2) a handgun possessed by a person on the ef-  
8 fective date of this Act and continuously by such per-  
9 son thereafter for a period not to exceed one hundred  
10 and eighty days;

11 “(3) a handgun, previously unregistered, possessed  
12 by (A) the United States or any department or agency  
13 thereof, or (B) any State or political subdivision thereof.

14 “(b) (1) A licensed dealer who sells a handgun to a  
15 person in whose possession the handgun must be registered  
16 shall require from the purchaser a completed application for  
17 the registration of the handgun and shall file the application  
18 with the Secretary at the time of sale.

19 “(2) When a person other than a licensed dealer sells  
20 a handgun, the purchaser shall file an application for its  
21 registration with the Secretary prior to receipt of the  
22 handgun.

23 “(3) A person who possesses a handgun on the effec-  
24 tive date of this Act shall, unless he sooner sells the hand-



1 gun, file an application for registration of the handgun with  
2 the Secretary within one hundred and eighty days.

3 “(c) An application for registration of a handgun shall  
4 be in a form to be prescribed by the Secretary, which shall  
5 include at least the following:

6 “(1) the name, address, date and place of birth,  
7 and social security or taxpayer identification number  
8 of the applicant;

9 “(2) the name of the manufacturer, the caliber or  
10 gauge, the model and the type, and the serial number  
11 of the handgun; and

12 “(3) the date, the place, and the name and address  
13 of the person from whom the handgun was obtained, the  
14 number of such person's certificate of registration of  
15 such handgun, if any, and, if such person is a licensed  
16 dealer, his license number.

17 “(d) An application for registration of a handgun shall  
18 be in duplicate. The original application shall be signed by  
19 the applicant and filed with the Secretary, together with a  
20 fee of \$1, either in person or by certified mail, return receipt  
21 requested, in such place as the Secretary by regulation may  
22 provide. The duplicate shall be retained by the applicant as  
23 temporary evidence of registration. The Secretary, after  
24 receipt of a duly filed completed application for registration,

1 shall send to the applicant a numbered certificate of registra-  
2 tion identifying such person as the registered owner of such  
3 handgun.

4 “(e) Registration of a handgun shall expire upon any  
5 change of the registrant's name or residence unless the  
6 registrant shall notify the Secretary within thirty days of  
7 such change.

8 “(f) It is unlawful for a person to carry a handgun  
9 required to be registered by this chapter without having with  
10 him a certificate of registration, or if such certificate has not  
11 been received, temporary evidence of registration, or to  
12 refuse to exhibit such certificate or temporary evidence upon  
13 demand of a law enforcement officer.

14 “(g) As used in this section and in sections 927 through  
15 933, the term ‘handgun’ means any firearm except a rifle or  
16 shotgun.

17 **“§ 927. Sales of handguns and ammunition**

18 “(a) A registrant of a handgun who sells such handgun  
19 shall, within five days of the sale, return to the Secretary  
20 his certificate of registration, noting on it the name and  
21 residence address of the transferee, and the date of delivery.

22 “(b) Whoever acquires a handgun required to be regis-  
23 tered under this chapter shall require the seller to exhibit a  
24 certificate of registration, and shall note the number of the  
25 certificate on his application for registration.



1       “(c) A licensed dealer shall not take or receive a hand-  
2 gun required to be registered under this chapter by way of  
3 pledge or pawn without also taking and retaining during the  
4 term of such pledge or pawn the certification of registration.  
5 If such pledge or pawn is not redeemed the dealer shall return  
6 the certificate of registration to the Secretary and register  
7 such handgun in his own name.

8       “(d) The executor or administrator of an estate contain-  
9 ing a handgun registered under this chapter shall promptly  
10 notify the Secretary of the death of the registrant and shall,  
11 at the time of any transfer of such handgun, return the certifi-  
12 cate of registration to the Secretary as provided in subsection  
13 (a). The executor or administrator of an estate containing  
14 a handgun required to be registered under this chapter shall  
15 promptly register such handgun, without penalty for any  
16 prior failure to register it.

17       “(e) Whoever possesses a handgun required to be regis-  
18 tered under this chapter shall within ten days notify the  
19 Secretary of a loss, theft, or destruction of such handgun,  
20 and if, after such notice, such handgun is recovered, shall  
21 notify the Secretary of the recovery.

22       “(f) A licensed dealer shall not sell ammunition to a  
23 person for use in a handgun required to be registered under  
24 this chapter without requiring the purchaser to exhibit a

1 certificate of registration or temporary evidence of registra-  
2 tion of a firearm which uses such ammunition, and noting  
3 the certificate number or date of the temporary evidence of  
4 registration on the records required to be maintained by  
5 the dealer pursuant to section 923 (d) of this title.

6 **“§ 928. Penalties**

7 “(a) Whoever violates a provision of section 926 or  
8 section 927 shall be punished by imprisonment not to  
9 exceed two years, or by a fine not to exceed \$2,000, or both.

10 “(b) Whoever knowingly falsifies any information re-  
11 quired to be filed with the Secretary pursuant to this  
12 chapter, or forges or alters any certificate of registration or  
13 temporary evidence of registration, shall be punished by  
14 imprisonment not to exceed five years or a fine not to exceed  
15 \$10,000, or both.

16 “(c) Except as provided in subsection (b), no informa-  
17 tion or evidence obtained from an application or certificate  
18 of registration required to be submitted or retained by a  
19 natural person in order to comply with any provision of this  
20 chapter or regulations issued by the Secretary shall be used  
21 as evidence against that person in a criminal proceeding  
22 with respect to a violation of law occurring prior to or  
23 concurrently with the filing of the application for registra-  
24 tion containing the information or evidence.

1 **"§ 929. Disposition of handguns to Secretary**

2       “(a) The Secretary is authorized to pay just compen-  
3 sation for handguns voluntarily relinquished to him.

4       “(b) A person who lawfully possessed a handgun prior  
5 to the operative effect of any provision of this title, and  
6 who becomes ineligible to possess such handgun by virtue  
7 of such provision, shall receive just compensation for the  
8 handgun upon its surrender to the Secretary.

9 **"§ 930. Rules and regulations; periods of amnesty**

10       “The Secretary may prescribe such rules and regulations  
11 as he deems reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions  
12 of this chapter, including reasonable requirements for the  
13 marking of handguns that do not have serial numbers, and  
14 may declare periods of amnesty for the registration of hand-  
15 guns.

16 **"§ 931. Disclosure of information**

17       “Information contained on any certificate of registration  
18 or application therefor shall not be disclosed except to the  
19 National Crime Information Center established by the Fed-  
20 eral Bureau of Investigation, and to law enforcement officers  
21 requiring such information in the performance of their official  
22 duties.

23 **"§ 932. Assistance to Secretary**

24       “When requested by the Secretary, Federal departments

1 and agencies shall assist the Secretary in the administration  
2 of this chapter.

3 **"§ 933. State permit systems**

4 " (a) The Secretary shall determine which States or  
5 political subdivisions of States have enacted or adopted ade-  
6 quate permit systems for the possession of handguns and  
7 shall publish in the Federal Register the names of such States  
8 and political subdivisions.

9 " (b) An adequate permit system shall include provision  
10 for:

11 " (1) identification of the permit holder appearing on  
12 the permit, including name, address, age, and signature  
13 or photograph;

14 " (2) restrictions on issuance of a permit to a per-  
15 son who is under indictment or who has been convicted  
16 in any court of a crime punishable by imprisonment for  
17 a term exceeding one year, or who is a fugitive from  
18 justice;

19 " (3) restrictions on issuance of a permit to a person  
20 who, by reason of age, mental condition, alcoholism, drug  
21 addiction, or previous violations of firearms laws cannot  
22 be relied upon to possess or use firearms safely and  
23 responsibly;

24 " (4) means of investigation of applicants for per-  
25 mits to determine their eligibility under subparagraphs

(2) and (3), including filing with the issuing agency  
 a complete set of fingerprints and a recent photograph  
 of the applicant; and

(5) prohibition of possession of handguns or am-  
 munition by any person who has not been issued such  
 a permit.

(c) After January 1, 1973, it shall be unlawful for any  
 person to sell or otherwise transfer any handgun or ammuni-  
 tion to any person (other than a licensed importer, licensed  
 manufacturer, or licensed dealer) unless:

(1) the sale or transfer is not prohibited by any  
 other provision of this chapter; and

(2) the purchaser or transferee exhibits a valid  
 permit issued to him by a State or political subdivision  
 having an adequate permit system, or the purchaser or  
 transferee exhibits a valid Federal gun license issued in  
 accordance with section 926 of this chapter.

(d) Determinations of adequate permit systems under  
 this section shall not be subject to the provisions of chapter  
 5, title 5, United States Code, but actions of the Secretary  
 shall be reviewable de novo pursuant to chapter 7, title 5,  
 United States Code, in an action instituted by any person,  
 State, or political subdivision adversely affected.

(e) Whenever the Secretary has determined in accord-  
 ance with this section that there exists in a State or po-

1. litical subdivision of a State, an adequate permit system for  
 2. the possession of handguns, the provisions of sections 926  
 3. through 930 of this chapter shall not apply to individuals  
 4. covered by such permit system."

5. SEC. 2. The table of sections of chapter 44 of title 18 of  
 6. the United States Code is amended by redesignating section  
 7. headings relating to sections 926 through 928 as sections  
 8. 934 through 936, respectively; and by inserting immedi-  
 9. ately after the item relating to section 925 the following:

- "926. Registration.
- "927. Sales of handguns and ammunition.
- "928. Penalties.
- "929. Disposition of handguns to Secretary.
- "930. Rules and regulations; periods of amnesty.
- "931. Disclosure of information.
- "932. Assistance to Secretary.
- "933. State permit systems."



1972  
92<sup>nd</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>nd</sup> SESSION

H. R. 15430

## **A BILL**

To amend chapter 44 of title 18 of the United States Code to provide for the systematic registration of handguns.

By Mr. McClORY

JUNE 12, 1972

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

62-21775-3089

1 - Steel  
1 - Mr. Mullen  
2 - Mr. Moschella  
1 - Mr. [redacted]

b6  
b7C

*Financial Legislation*

March 11, 1980

*Attn: Chief*

Honorable Robert McClory  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Dear Congressman McClory:

Your letter dated February 22, 1980, with accompanying proposed legislation regarding the Gun Control Act of 1968 was received on February 27, 1980. I understand that my staff has already been in contact with members of your staff for a detailed analysis of this legislation. This information will assist me in responding to you in the near future.

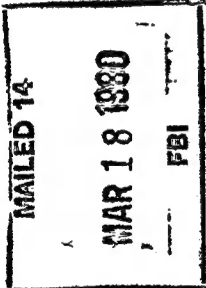
Sincerely yours,

William H. Webster

William H. Webster  
Director

6 MAR 21 1980

KWT:cah (8)



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Exec AD LES \_\_\_\_\_  
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Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED:

Director W.H.W.  
Exec. AD-Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exec. AD-Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exec. AD-LES \_\_\_\_\_

Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
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MAIL ROOM ☒

*g. J. [signature]*